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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year  
1952.

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S.L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -

J. E. FANNON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st June 1953.

To the Chairman and Members,  
Sherborne Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1952.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district during the year has remained good and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Fannon, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss. P. Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Sartin, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Lord E. Pearson.

Medical Officer of Health.



SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 2.

A. Area - 41,481 acres.

Rateable value - £26,536.

Production of a penny rate - £107. 7. 11d.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 5,780

LIVE BIRTHS.

		Comparative figures	
	Male.	Female.	(a) Sherborne R.D.C. (b) England & Wales.
Total	53	44	Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	48	43	resident pop:
Illegitimate	5	1	= 16.8 15.2 15.3

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	-	1	Rate per 1,000		
			resident pop:		
			= 0.2	0.2	0.35

DEATHS.

Total	35	21	Rate per 1,000		
			resident pop:		
			= 9.7	9.0	11.3

Deaths in			Infantile death		
infants under			rate per 1,000		
one year	2	0	live births		
			= 20.0	20.0	27.6

Deaths from Tuberculosis -- Nil

Deaths from maternal causes -- Nil

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, in the district continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not yet been possible to develop the County Council's Domestic Home Help Service in the district. Otherwise the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district.

1. SANITARY STAFF.

H. SHEPHERD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Senior Sanitary Inspector,  
Building Surveyor and Water  
Engineer.  
From 1.1.52 to 30.6.52.

L.H. POOLE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Additional Sanitary Inspector.

J.E. FANNON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Senior Sanitary Inspector.  
From 1.9.52.



Clerical staff - one senior and one junior clerk until 1.1.52. and, thereafter one clerk (part-time).

The year saw a re-organisation in the work of the department. As a result of which, one Sanitary Inspector only is now employed who gives the whole of his time to his statutory duties as Sanitary Inspector, refuse collection and salvage, together with drainage and sewerage disposal arrangements throughout the district.

## 2. WATER SUPPLY.

Under the re-organisation referred to above, the maintenance of the Council's water supplies is, for the time being, the responsibility of the Council's Consulting Engineer. Ultimately, it is the intention of the Council (in consultation with the Wincanton Rural District Council) to appoint a full time Water-works Manager to be responsible for the maintenance of the whole of the Council's water undertakings.

Rainfall for the year 1952 (as recorded by Mr. C.E. Bean of Barton Gardens, Sherborne) = 34.49 inches.

(a) Quantity. Some temporary shortages of water were again experienced during the year due to a fall in the yields of the springs and to leakages of some of the principal mains caused by Oxford clay erosion. Supplementary supplies were obtained from the Sherborne Urban District Council's supply and from the Sturminster Rural District Council's supply to Holwell and Bishops Caundle.

The Trent Estate found it increasingly difficult to maintain a satisfactory supply from their private Estate supply to the parish by reason of defective service pipes and approaches were made to the Council to take over this private supply. No finality had been reached at the end of the year in this matter.

(b) Quality. The bacteriological quality of some of the supplies still proves unsatisfactory, in particular the Southern Parishes Supply. Chlorination of all the Council's supplies is carried out and regular samples submitted for bacteriological examination and for free chlorine estimation. The details are given below.

<u>Council Supplies.</u>	<u>Bacteriological.</u>	<u>Chemical.</u>	<u>Chlorine Estimation.</u>
Southern Parishes	34	1	25
Leigh	15	1	2
Holwell & Bishops Caundle	2	-	2
Bradford Abbas	11	1	-
Poyntington	14	1	-
Trent & Sandford Orcas	27	3	15
Oborne	17	1	8
	120	8	52

### Private Supplies.

Batcombe	13	-	-
Bradford Abbas.	1	-	-
Nether Compton	9	-	-
Over Compton	1	-	-
Sandford Orcas	8	-	-
Thornford	8	-	-
Trent	10	-	-
	50	-	-
Total	50	-	-
Grand Total	170	8	52

Work was commenced during the year on the scheme approved by the Ministry of Health for obtaining a major supply from the Thornford borehole. This new scheme is anxiously awaited in order to augment the present supplies and to enable the unsatisfactory supplies in the district to be eliminated.

(c) New Works and new connections. In connection with the comprehensive water supply scheme from the Thornford borehole, construction began on the pump house, surface tank and roadway at the borehole. Work was completed on the replacement of the cast iron main from The Fox Inn to Cornford Bridge, Holwell, rendered defective by soil action.

New connections. The following new connections to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

(i)	domestic use	22
(ii)	agricultural purposes	9
(iii)	other purposes	Nil

(d) Details of domestic supply.

Parish.	Houses with Public Supply.	Houses with Standpipes.	Houses with supply direct to house.	Population supplied (estimated)
Batcombe (part)	11	2	9	31
Beerhackett (part)	12	-	12	37
Bradford Abbas (part)	18	-	18	63
Castleton (part)	10	5	5	29
Caundle Bishop	77	20	57	231
Caundle Marsh	22	5	17	94
Caundle Purse	47	5	42	174
Chetnole	66	8	58	244
Clifton Maybank (part)	8	-	8	25
Folke	92	23	69	290
Goathill	10	4	6	49
Haydon	19	3	16	70
Hermitage	13	5	8	33
Hilfield	11	4	7	43
Holnest	39	-	37	111
Holwell	97	5	92	350
Leigh	113	15	98	395
Leweston	1	-	1	20
Lillington	4	-	4	12
Longburton	80	7	73	238
Melbury Bubb(part)	5	-	5	17
North Wootton	9	1	8	32
Osborne	39	-	39	108
Ryme Intrinseca	39	7	32	139
Sandford Orcas.	55	3	51	193
Stockwood (part)	6	-	6	24
Trent (part)	26	1	25	95
Yetminster	173	3	170	622
	1102	126	973	3769

### 3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New works completed during the year. Small sewerage disposal schemes were provided at Purse Caundle, Beerhackett and Ryme Intrinseca for groups of Council houses provided in this parish.

Longburton & Trent. The sewerage schemes for these two parishes were prepared and approved in principle but sanction has not been given owing to the present restrictions on capital expenditure.



#### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. A monthly collection of house refuse is made throughout the district, with the exception of Haydon Park Polish Dependants' Camp where a twice weekly collection is made.

(b) Salvage. The recovery and sale of salvage was continued during the year. Owing to the fall in demand the return from waste paper was disappointing but it is forecast that the demand will shortly improve. Salvage to the value of £175. 6. 9d. was sold during the year.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The Council's sludge pump was used for the regular emptying of cesspools at Council houses and was also available for private works at a fixed charge.

#### 5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Pollution of the River Yeo at Purse Caundle continued and the ditch was cleaned at regular intervals to minimise the nuisance.

Ditches in the parishes of Chetnole, Bishops Caundle, Trent, Thornford, Leigh, Yetminster and Bradford Abbas have been cleaned out regularly. Conditions in the ditches at Bishops Caundle and Bradford Abbas will improve as the sewerage schemes are developed which further serves to emphasise the need for similar schemes in other parishes.

#### 6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	21
No. of defects found	Nil
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

#### 7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	11
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	31
Total	24	42

Total No. of outworkers = 67

#### 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

#### 9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district which is used by the public on occasion by special permission. The water comes from springs and is chlorinated when in use.

#### 10. MOVABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No. of movable dwellings licensed during year	6
No. of camping sites licensed in the district	1

#### 11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No action was called for or taken during the year in respect to such premises.



## 12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

The Rodent Officer and his staff of two operatives are available for the treatment of infestations and the organisation has worked smoothly during the past year.

## 13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No. of registered premises (if any)	Nil
No. of licensed premises (if any)	Nil
No. of inspections carried out in respect to such premises	Nil

## 14. SCHOOLS SANITATION.

All schools in the district (including school canteens) were inspected during the year and close liaison maintained with the County authority. Conditions were found to be satisfactory within the limitations imposed by absence of sewerage in some of the villages.

## 15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was taken under these Acts during the year.

## 16. HOUSING.

### Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year	240
No. of inspections made	505
No. of informal notices served	14
No. of informal notices complied with	14
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	20
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Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -

(a) Demolition Orders made	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Reconditioning	15
(ii) Closure	Nil

### Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to the Local Authority	2
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	2
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Total No. of houses in the district	1,776
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### Requisitioned premises etc.

Seven houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. One house on which a Demolition or Closing Order had been made was being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

### Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	<u>Temporary</u> <u>Prefab.</u>	<u>Swedish</u> <u>Timber.</u>	<u>Traditional</u> <u>Type.</u>	<u>Other.</u>
During 1952	-	-	29	-
Post-war	-	-	143	-

Total No. of families re-housed during 1952 41

### Rural Housing Survey.

	<u>Prior to 1952.</u>		<u>No. of inspections</u> <u>during 1952.</u>	
	<u>Preliminary.</u>	<u>Detailed.</u>	<u>Preliminary.</u>	<u>Detailed.</u>
Category 1	446	22	-	16
" 2	540	14	-	5
" 3	512	32	-	25
" 4	114	83	-	22
" 5	96	77	-	8
	<u>1708</u>	<u>228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76</u>

### Housing Acts 1949 & 1952 - Improvement Grants.

Two applications were received during the year for grants under these Acts. In one case the grant was forthcoming and in the other case the grant was refused.

The conditions governing the making of Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949 have been modified and it is anticipated that in consequence a greater number of applications will be received. The financial limits have been raised so that a maximum grant of £400 may be made in approved cases. Agricultural service cottages may now be included and this, together with the considerable easing of the building licensing situation, offers a good opportunity for improving housing conditions in rural areas at much less expense to the local authority than the building of new houses. It is felt that by this means many of the sub-standard cottages in the district could be restored to a useful life and that sympathetic consideration should be given to applications under this Act.

### Housing Applications - Inspections.

Following inspections carried out by the Medical Officer of Health of the conditions under which 8 applicants for Council houses were living, 8 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds were made.

### Comments.

It will be noted that 29 new Council houses were completed by the Council during the year compared with 32 in the preceding year. At the end of the year there were 144 applicants on the Council's waiting list of whom 118 were resident within the district. Of these, 78 were employed outside the district and it is not unreasonable to assume that a large proportion of these would seek housing accommodation, if and when available, in the district where they are employed.



17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949  
by the District Council under regulation 14 of the  
Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 2

No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the  
Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised and Sterilised  
Milk) Regulations 1949 4

No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under  
regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 6

No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8  
of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 6

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination  
during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	<u>7</u>
Accredited	<u>8</u>
Pasteurised	<u>6</u>
Non-Designated	<u>9</u>

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13  
of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 49

No. being - restaurant kitchens 3  
hotel kitchens 1  
food factories 2

No. of inspections - restaurant kitchens 10  
hotel kitchens 1  
food factories 10

No. of premises in the district subject to registra-  
tion under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 7

No. of such premises registered in respect to -  
(a) Ice-cream 6  
(b) Sausages & prepared meats 1

No. of inspections during the year 42

No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for  
Methylene Blue Test Nil

Food Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. There are two private licensed  
slaughterhouses in the district.

(b) Butchers and other shops. Quantities condemned -

70 lbs. Dates.  
6 lbs. Jellicd veal.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out 1  
No. of disinfections carried out Nil

# 19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,047
Total No. of informal notices served	31
Total No. of informal notices complied with	29
Total No. of statutory notices served	2
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	2
No. of prosecutions	Nil

## D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

### Incidence -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Whooping Cough	47
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3
Erysipelas	5
Polioomyelitis	1
Measles	7
Enteric Para	1
Malaria	1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1

### Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
4	1	1	-

### Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

## PROTECTIVE INNOCULATION.

The value of protective inoculation against Diphtheria has proved itself to such an extent that, except in the largest centres of population, Diphtheria is now virtually unknown. This satisfactory position can only be maintained providing at least 75% of the babies born are immunised against Diphtheria. Whilst the response to immunisation in the district is good, this may not continue to be the case because a generation of parents to whom Diphtheria is only a name cannot be expected to respond to appeals to have their children immunised as parents did ten years ago.

Increasing demands come from parents, fully aware of the distress and suffering occasioned by an attack of Whooping Cough, for their offspring to have protective inoculation against this disease.

It is suggested that the results so far achieved in connection with the protection of children against the worst effects of Whooping Cough by prophylactic inoculation justifies immunisation against this disease being adopted to the same extent as that against Diphtheria.

If immunisation against Whooping Cough was combined with immunisation against Diphtheria (which has been shown to be possible) then it is suggested that not only will the benefits be obtained in respect to Whooping Cough, but also that the level of immunisations against Diphtheria would be maintained at a higher level than can otherwise reasonably be expected.

NOEL F. PEARSON  
Medical Officer of Health.